

FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT

Rhinebeck Republican Committee
PO Box 744
Rhinebeck, New York 12572

SENSITIVE

August 10, 2007

The Honorable Robert Lenhard
Chairman
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

MUR # 5935

2007 AUG 23 P 2:09

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

Re: Violations of FECA by Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand

Dear Chairman Lenhard:

When Congress adopted the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act in 2002, one of the central features was the prohibition on federal candidates and officeholders raising "soft money" in support of non-federal candidates.¹ Subsequently, the Federal Election Commission clarified that federal officeholders could appear at local candidate fundraising events under a narrow set of restrictions if the FEC's guidance was followed.² We believe that a recent appearance by Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand at a fundraising event for a local candidate violated these restrictions.

Current campaign finance law in New York State allows candidates for state and local office to accept limited contributions of corporate funds. New York law also allows candidates for state and local office to accept more than the federal limit of \$2,300 per person per election.

The attached invitation highlighting an appearance at a fundraising event by Kirsten Gillibrand, the incumbent member of Congress representing Dutchess County, recently came to our attention.³ The fundraising event was held on July 21st, 2007 for Dutchess County Executive candidate Joseph Ruggiero. This invitation asked individuals for as much as \$2,500 to attend and does not contain any language prohibiting corporate contributions (which are permitted under New York law).

¹ 2 USC § 441a(a) and 2 USC § 441(e) and 11 § CFR 300.62.

² See AO 2003-3.

³ See Attachment A.

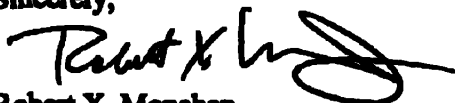
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The Commission made clear in AO 2003-03 that federal candidates could not appear at local candidate fundraising events without the proper limits and disclaimers in the invitation material or at the event itself. AO 2003-03 holds that officeholders may only solicit funds for non-federal candidates of up to the maximum federal amount for individuals (\$2,300 this cycle) and up to \$5,000 from a political action committee. Federal officeholders may never solicit corporate funds.

We believe that this invitation is a violation of the soft money prohibitions of the Federal Election Campaign Act by Kirsten Gillibrand because the invitation with her name on it solicited amounts beyond the individual limits of the FECA and did not expressly state that corporate money was not being solicited.⁴ We ask that the Commission investigate and take appropriate action to address this violation.

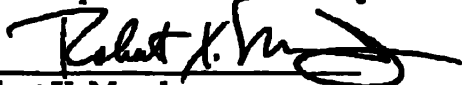
Sincerely,



Robert X. Monahan
Chairman
Rhinebeck Republican Party

Robert X. Monahan, hereby verifies that the statements made in the above complaint are, upon information and belief, true.

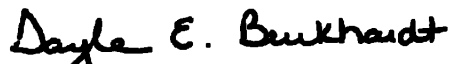
Sworn to pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.



Robert X. Monahan

Dutchess County
State of New York

The foregoing instrument was subscribed and sworn before me this 10th day of August, 2007 by



Notary Public

My commission expires 3-1-08

DAYLE E. BURKHARDT
Notary Public State Of New York
Dutchess County 018U6106319
Commission Expires March 1, 2008

⁴ Sec 2 USC §§ 441a and 441i(e).

Monique Segarra & Christopher Lipcomb, Warren Smith & Ron VanVoorhies,
Carolyn Marks Blackwood, Clare Brandt, Linda Faber, Stewart Kahn, Bruce Kraus,
Kathy Hammer, Chris Del Giudice, Bill Jeffway, Michael Del Giudice and Jayne Keyes
(Committee in formation)

Cordially invite you
to attend a reception in support of

Wappinger Supervisor
Joseph Ruggiero
and Candidate for Dutchess County Executive

With special guests
Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand
&
Assemblymember Kevin Cahill

Saturday July 21st
3:30-5pm
At Mansakenning, the home of
Monique Segarra and Christopher Lipcomb
Rhinebeck, NY

Please RSVP to _____
by July 13th
Space is limited

_____ Chair \$2500

_____ Host \$1000

_____ Sponsor \$500

_____ Individual Ticket \$150

(There will be a VIP reception for Sponsors, Hosts and Chairs with Rep. Gillibrand, Assemblyman Cahill & Joseph Ruggiero)

Donations may be contributed via credit card on-line at www.joeruggiero.org

Or by sending a check to:
Friends of Joseph Ruggiero
PO Box 294
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

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